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THE PEACE CORPS: 25 YEARS OF
ALLEVIATING HUNGER

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER,
Washington, DC, March 19, 1986.

To: Members of the Select Committee on Hunger:

I am pleased to transmit to Committee members the enclosed report "The Peace Corps: 25 Years of Alleviating Hunger."

I believe this report documents the usefulness of the Peace Corps approach to combating the problems of world hunger and poverty. I commend this bipartisan document to your attention, as it should be useful to the Committee in its examination of United States programs and policies designed to address world hunger, and to make recommendations for improvements in these programs.

Sincerely,

MICKEY LELAND,
Chairman.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Peace Corps was established in 1961 to "promote world peace and friendship." In the 25 years of its history, over 110,000 U.S. citizens have served as Peace Corps volunteers in 92 countries around the world. Many of the programs and activities in which these volunteers are involved are designed to combat the problems of world hunger, poverty and underdevelopment.

The Select Committee on Hunger is supportive of the Peace Corps approach in dealing with these problems. Peace Corps programs are community-based, designed to meet basic human needs, particularly for food, shelter, health and education. The Peace Corps has consistently emphasized the human dimension of development, concentrating on people-to-people approaches rather than transferring complex technologies or providing costly materials.

The Committee recommends that the Peace Corps consider increasing the number of volunteers, particularly in countries with high levels of malnutrition and low levels of food production; expanding its Africa Food Systems Initiative; and strengthening the focus on women in its programs.

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INTRODUCTION

On March 1, 1961, the Peace Corps was established by an Executive Order signed by President John F. Kennedy. In the twenty-five years since that date, over 110,000 men and women from all fifty states in the nation have been volunteers with the Peace Corps. Over 90 developing countries have been affected, with Peace Corps volunteers making a significant difference in the lives of millions of people in Africa, Latin America, the Near East, Asia, and the Pacific.

The Peace Corps was and is a bold experiment in confronting the problems of world hunger, poverty and underdevelopment. It seeks to harness the good will, talents and enthusiasm of U.S. citizens, men and women, young and old, to fight against the ills of less-developed nations, especially illiteracy, ill health, and the other myriad factors associated with poverty. In ninety-two different countries, Peace Corps volunteers have worked with people in villages and cities, farms and schools, clinics and business cooperatives. With its innovative people-to-people approach, the Peace Corps has developed and successfully implemented a model for meeting social and economic needs which has been accepted and imitated by other development agencies since the early 1960's.

Among the many activities of the Peace Corps is a significant programming emphasis on projects designed to assist in the struggle against world hunger, particularly through efforts in education, agriculture, and health.

A current initiative of the Peace Corps symbolizes its commitment to combat world hunger. The Africa Food System Initiative is a ten year effort that will be implemented in 12 African nations with the goal of reversing declining per capita food production and building food systems which are self-sustaining.

Equally important is the role the Peace Corps has played in educating citizens of the United States on the needs of the developing world. Today returned Peace Corps Volunteers can be found in many prominent positions. Four Congressmen and one Senator are Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV's). The Administrator of the Agency for International Development is an RPCV, as are approximately one-third of the agency staff. So are individuals in many international development organizations. Africare, a private voluntary organization working in Africa, was founded to carry out the principles of Peace Corps grass-roots development by a former Peace Corps country director, C. Payne Lucas. A review of the membership list for a group called the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Washington shows that its members include persons currently employed at the Agency for International Development, the World Bank, the African Development Foundation, the Inter-American Development Bank, and virtually every branch of the U.S. Government.

The Select Committee on Hunger is interested in examining the role of U.S. agencies and programs in alleviating world hunger. This report is meant to review Peace Corps programs directed toward that goal, and discuss recommendations for enhancing such efforts in the future.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PEACE CORPS

The essential purposes of the Peace Corps were defined by the United States Congress in 1961:

- To help the people of interested countries and areas in meeting their needs for trained manpower.
- To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
- To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

In attempting to meet these goals, the Peace Corps sent 750 men and women into nine countries in its first year of existence. Fifty-four percent of the volunteers worked in education, and 25 percent engaged in community development work. The remaining 20 percent worked in programs of agricultural extension, health care, public works and public administration.

Over the years these ratios shifted. The Peace Corps began actively recruiting people with technical skills needed in development countries. By 1980, when the "New Directions" mandate for foreign aid was firmly in place, overseas projects were directed toward these basic human needs areas:

[In percent]

Formal/nonformal education.....	40
Health/nutrition/water supply.....	25
Food production.....	18
Income generation.....	7
Community services/housing.....	6
Energy/conservation.....	4

The following charts compare the number of volunteers and trainees listed according to the skills which they brought to the Peace Corps during its first 24 years.

CHART 1.—VOLUNTEERS AND TRAINEES BY SKILL, 1962-84

Year:	Agriculture		Skilled trades		Professional skills ¹		Education		Liberal arts	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1962.....	310	11	113	4	394	14	394	14	1,605	57
1963.....	399	6	199	3	997	15	1,130	17	3,921	59
1964.....	403	4	202	2	1,512	15	1,814	18	6,148	61
1965.....	530	4	397	3	2,650	20	4,372	33	5,299	40
1966.....	467	3	311	2	2,333	15	3,733	24	8,712	56
1967.....	299	2	150	1	1,796	12	3,892	26	8,831	59
1968.....	691	5	138	1	1,935	14	4,147	30	6,912	50
1969.....	728	6	121	1	1,698	14	3,882	32	5,702	47
1970.....	856	9	285	3	1,807	19	2,854	30	3,711	39
1971.....	777	11	353	5	1,272	18	2,120	30	2,544	36
1972.....	758	11	345	5	1,448	21	1,999	29	2,344	34
1973.....	881	12	441	6	1,468	20	2,055	28	2,496	34
1974.....	965	12	321	4	1,770	22	2,494	31	2,494	31
1975.....	1,052	15	421	6	1,403	20	2,034	29	2,105	30

CHART 1.—VOLUNTEERS AND TRAINEES BY SKILL, 1962-84—Continued

	Agriculture		Skilled trades		Professional skills ¹		Education		Liberal arts	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1976.....	894	15	238	4	1,370	23	2,086	35	1,370	23
1977.....	920	16	230	4	1,438	25	1,898	33	1,266	22
1978.....	1,202	17	283	4	1,839	26	2,263	32	1,485	21
1979.....	1,266	20	316	5	1,709	27	1,898	30	1,139	18
1980.....	1,319	22	360	6	1,738	29	1,618	27	959	16
1981.....	1,143	21	382	7	1,742	32	1,416	26	762	14
1982.....	968	18	377	7	1,883	35	1,453	27	699	13
1983.....	987	18	329	6	1,919	35	1,480	27	768	14
1984.....	969	17	285	5	1,881	33	1,709	30	855	15

¹ Professional skills include: business, engineering, health and social work.

Source: Office of Marketing, Recruitment, Placement, and Staging, Peace Corps.

Special emphases within the "basic human needs" mandate included projects specifically designed to develop essential sources of protein, and alternative energy supplies. Also, an amendment to the Peace Corps Act emphasizing the role of women in economic development was passed in 1978. This emphasis recognized that in many Third World Countries, particularly African countries, women provide most of the farm labor, and often essential business functions in addition to their role in household and child care activities. Thus, while many development activities have traditionally been targeted to men, the Peace Corps moved consciously to incorporate programs designed for women.

The Peace Corps is justifiably proud of its distinction as the first U.S. foreign assistance agency to focus its activities on small-scale projects at the village level. Peace Corps volunteers have provided technical assistance in a variety of food-related programs including agricultural production, fisheries, irrigation, sanitation, forestry, energy conservation, nutrition, and public health.

This people-to-people approach to development is endorsed by many development specialists. A report by the Office of Technology Assessment which was commissioned by the Select Committee on Hunger found that appropriate technologies in Africa focus on the village level.

Examples of successful projects in these areas can be drawn from a review of various Peace Corps annual reports over the years.

- Nurses working with the Peace Corps in Malaysia in 1965 established access to health care for 200,000 people. A nationwide program would not have reached the villages served by the Peace Corps for an additional three years.
- In 1973, volunteers in Micronesia helped local fishermen improve their catch by 20 percent. They also helped in the construction of a cold-storage facility, which greatly expanded local access to export markets.
- The 1977 Peace Corps program in Ghana included volunteers working in improving tomato crops, animal husbandry, reforestation programs, and integrated rural development schemes.

THE PEACE CORPS TODAY

Today there are approximately 6,000 volunteers working in 62 developing nations.

According to 1985 estimates, 29 percent of Peace Corps Volunteers are serving in education programs, 25 percent are engaged in food production projects, 13 percent in health and nutrition, seven percent in energy and forestry, six percent in small enterprise development, and 20 percent in various other skill areas.

The *African Food Systems Initiative* demonstrates that increasing agriculture and food production projects is a program priority for Peace Corps in its 25th year. The agency has launched this initiative to place teams of volunteers in African countries, beginning with Mali, Zaire and Lesotho. This grassroots program will focus on many aspects of the food system, including irrigation, seed multiplication, planting, harvesting, processing, storage, and marketing. Peace Corps plans to expand to as many as twelve other African nations by 1990.

Under the Initiative, Peace Corps plans to assist local communities to develop and implement their own technologies for improvements in food systems. In each country, the existing food system will be assessed and constraints identified before appropriate technologies are developed. This Initiative will focus on long-term efforts to halt the deterioration of African food production systems. Teams of volunteers will work on myriad and interrelated problems of the agricultural system, including land preparation and water supply, production factors such as appropriate seed varieties, farming methods, and fertilizers, and post-production phases including storage, preservation, processing, marketing and nutrition education.

Following are examples of projects in which today's Peace Corps volunteers are engaged. Included are examples, not only from the special African Food System Initiative, but also from other worldwide program efforts.

African Food System Initiative—Mali.—In Mali the program will focus on three separate agricultural systems—rainfed, irrigated, and mixed. Volunteers will work with technologies in each area appropriate to those farmer groups. A major emphasis will be to incorporate strategies designed to reach women farmers. Peace Corps is arranging to integrate its programs with those of other development agencies. An AID agricultural development effort in the rainfed areas will integrate volunteers. In the mixed rainfed-irrigated area, volunteers will work with a project supported by the European Economic Community. In the irrigated areas, volunteers will work with both AID and the American agency Africare.

Family food production.—Peace Corps volunteers in Jamaica developed the *Intensive Vegetable Gardening for Profit and Self-Sufficiency* manual. It has since been adapted for use in Liberia by other volunteers and that version is used to train Liberian field workers in the Ministry of Agriculture. In a Honduran village, a Peace Corps volunteer is working with children to establish a school garden. With the nutrition education component that is an integral part of this project, children are also encouraged to start

gardens of their own on family plots, thereby bringing better nutrition practices to the village as a whole.

A 1984 Peace Corps nutrition agreement with AID supports training activities in the area of vegetable gardening for nutrition improvement. Projects sponsored under this agreement are ongoing in Honduras, Western Samoa and Ecuador.

Agriculture extension.—In Sierra Leone, Peace Corps volunteers work as agricultural extensionists with host country colleagues to help small farmers develop swamps for the production of paddy rice. Other food crops are also incorporated in this program.

Kenya's rural women's extension agricultural project addresses the problem of food production. It works exclusively with women farmers who produce subsistence food crops. This is especially significant in light of the fact that women form two-thirds of the rural population in Kenya and provide 80 percent of the rural labor force needed for food production.

Volunteers in The Gambia are working with animal husbandry and agriculture. Their objectives include increasing maize production by organizing farmers to use their land more effectively, and improving animal husbandry methods by livestock owners.

In Niger, volunteers have helped launch a new agriculture project, and are working with improved strains of okra, tomatoes, and new methods for expanding agricultural extension services.

Fisheries.—Establishing fisheries can significantly contribute both protein to the local diet and a source of income. Volunteers in Zaire's Inland Fisheries Program are providing a culturally acceptable way to help meet the nutritional requirements of rural farm families and help increase their income.

Food conservation.—Approximately 30-40 percent of grains produced in Tanzania are lost as a result of infestation, improper handling in transit, poor agricultural techniques, and poor storage facilities. Peace Corps volunteers in Tanzania are attempting to improve small farmer grain storage facilities and to educate farmers in pest control.

Desertification.—Desertification, or the loss of productive land for food production, is one of the most serious threats to food accessibility and availability in some developing countries. A volunteer in Burkina Faso has assisted his village in building a series of rock barriers along the flood plain, planting trees and vegetation, and other means of preventing further loss of topsoil from once-barren fields.

Another volunteer in Niger has helped villagers build windbreaks and plant trees and grasses to create productive range land along a two mile sand dune.

In Kenya, volunteers are working with AID to establish forestry centers which will provide seedlings and technical assistance to small landowners.

Water and sanitation.—Unless water supplies are both clean and accessible, many other development efforts are impossible. Lack of water leads to poor food production capability, high levels of diseases, and a range of other problems.

In Botswana, one volunteer has assisted in the construction of 50 dams serving 65 villages. This project not only is bringing potable water to thousands of people, but also has created 2,100 jobs for

area residents. Other components of the Peace Corps program in Botswana include projects associated with potable water well construction and irrigation.

Nutrition and health.—Improving nutrition is an obvious step in alleviating hunger. Nutritional deficiencies have a negative impact on physical and mental development, on productivity, and on life expectancy. Improvements in health invariably produce a positive impact on nutritional status as well.

In Zaire, volunteers in public health and nutrition assisted in vaccinating 6,000 children, training 30 primary school teachers in health subjects, and providing prenatal care and training for 4,000 women.

In 1984, the Peace Corps and AID signed an agreement to promote Peace Corps' involvement in oral rehydration therapy activities. The Peace Corps has trained volunteers in Liberia, Togo, Zaire, Nepal, Senegal, and the Philippines. An expansion of the program will include oral rehydration therapy training as a core element for all health Volunteers.

Income generation.—In most countries, hunger is more an incapable result of poverty rather than of an absolute lack of food. For these populations, access to income is the most important tool for alleviating hunger.

In the Caribbean region, the Peace Corps seeks to bring poor farmers and fishermen into their countries' cash economies through the creation of small agricultural and business enterprises. In 10 Eastern Caribbean nations, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Belize, Jamaica and Haiti, cooperatives have been set up to produce and market goods for local consumption and for export. A group of 160 volunteers with agriculture and business backgrounds have been trained for this program. Eleven projects, with total funding of \$2.74 million, have been set up through various agricultural credit programs. The projects have created 6,000 direct jobs and boosted the average income of participants as much as 1,000 percent in one year. An evaluation of the projects found that for each development dollar invested, an average of 12 dollars in capital investment has been generated.

LEGACY OF THE PEACE CORPS

In recent congressional testimony, Peace Corps Director Loret Ruppe quoted from a recent Peace Corps study. It estimated that in the combined areas of agriculture, fisheries, forestry, health/nutrition, and water/sanitation, approximately 1,200 volunteers had a *direct* effect on over three million people in six thousand communities, and those same volunteers had an *indirect* effect on over twelve million families in eleven thousand communities.

These contacts, carried out in Peace Corps' unique people-to-people approach, have often resulted in long-term benefits. Analyzing the impact of Peace Corps programs can be difficult. Many examples are the result of individual volunteers interacting with co-workers, families, and communities. Nevertheless, there is substantial evidence that the Peace Corps has provided significant technical assistance and training to Third World peoples. A 1980 survey found that 70 percent of all volunteers judged their efforts "very

useful" to their host countries' development. Almost 90 percent said that more volunteers were needed to continue working in the same fields.

Objective evaluation studies of the Peace Corps contributions over the years have provided ample evidence of its importance in the field of technical assistance. A 1966 Peace Corps study conducted on the impact of Peace Corps in the Philippines reported:

In 92 percent of (Peace Corps sites) our interviewees established that educational facilities and new teaching techniques had been introduced. In 53 percent of the Peace Corps communities, scholarships had been instituted and material aid given to help residents.

Another study in the 1960's measured Peace Corps performance in Peru. One significant finding was that Peace Corps communities developed at a rate three times that of communities without volunteers. Indices for community development used included setting up garbage disposals, potable water installations, public information systems, and the like.

In the 1970's, publication of a series of Volunteer Activity Surveys was initiated by the Peace Corps' Evaluation division. One 1978 study indicated that from 1961 to 1977:

182,600 people were taught in academic and vocational subjects such as English, math, auto mechanics, plumbing, carpentry, typing, etc.

82,200 livestock were inoculated.

18,780 people were trained in specialized fields including health, teaching and business administration.

9,100 people received technical assistance in food production and conservation practices through consultations and extension activities.

390 fish ponds were constructed or improved.

270 demonstration and experimental plots were established to show farmers the techniques of expanding food production.

A 1980 report by the World Bank emphasizes the importance of basic education to social and economic progress. Evaluations of Peace Corps programs in education, a long-standing priority for programming, have documented their success. For example, a 1968 study of Peace Corps education programs in Ethiopia found students taught by Peace Corps volunteers scored significantly higher on all scales than those who had not. Noted the report, "The differences were large enough that we could be certain they could not have occurred by chance."

In addition to measurable, immediate impact evaluations, clear evidence of Peace Corps effectiveness exists in the success of activities which continue long after the Peace Corps presence has been removed. Following are some examples.

Ecuador.—In 1976, Peace Corps volunteers initiated a project to establish freshwater fish culture in subsistence level ponds, extension stations, and middle-level commercial ponds. A total of 18 Peace Corps volunteers were involved in the project over an 8 year period. Currently, there are 2,000 subsistence ponds, as well as seven fish stations, constructed and in operation. There are 14

middle-level commercial ponds in operation and producing an average of 700 U.S. dollars per year each of the last four years.

A forestry nursery project begun in 1982 was established to produce 15,000 seedlings annually. One Peace Corps volunteer established the nursery with a local community member. The Peace Corps withdrew in December 1984, and the nursery is now totally self-sufficient.

Fiji.—In 1973 a Peace Corps volunteer established a farm services cooperative association. In 1984, the Association sold \$250,000 worth of its members agricultural crops. It also sold \$110,000 worth of farm inputs and merchandise.

Honduras.—In 1984 a volunteer in Honduras helped a cooperative of 60 small farmers to establish a vegetable production project. In just two months, the net profit from the exports in this project doubled the farmers' incomes. Not only were the additional vegetables available to their families to augment their own nutritional levels, but the additional income allowed other basic needs to be met. Furthermore, the jobs created in the area benefited an estimated 800 people.

Jamaica.—In 1978 volunteers began a fish farming program. Now run by Jamaicans, the program has spread island-wide, and currently produces thousands of pounds of fish each week.

Micronesia.—In 1973, volunteers helped increase the fish catch of local fishermen in Micronesia by 20 percent. The fish is used both for improving local diets and for generating income.

Morocco.—From 1968 to 1974, a total of 50 Peace Corps volunteers were involved in a project to help in the reforestation of several eroded areas. Currently the program is continuing with the Moroccan Ministry of Agriculture, and conducted by Moroccan University graduates. These lands now have full grown pine, eucalyptus and olive trees with economic importance to local communities, and ecologic importance to local food production.

Zaire.—In 1980, Peace Corps initiated a project to improve the quality of spring water in a Zairian village. Six volunteers over a four year period trained village nurses and local volunteers how to improve and maintain the springs box, and teach village mothers about the relation between clean water and health. Although Peace Corps assistance ended in 1984, the project is currently being administered by local health personnel, and has been expanded to serve over 25 villages.

The Peace Corps continues initiating such projects, and measuring both their immediate and long term impacts. The following examples are drawn from Peace Corps volunteer activities in 1985 and 1986.

Agriculture in The Gambia.—Corn production in The Gambia increased from 95 hectares to 15,000 hectares in 3 years as a result of coordinated efforts between Peace Corps, the Ministry of Agriculture, and AID. Four volunteers served as extension agents teaching agricultural assistants, demonstrating planting techniques, and helping farmers to use ox-drawn cultivators and build improved storage facilities.

Health and nutrition in Ecuador.—Health volunteers have aided over 2,000 families in 30 communities in maternal child health care, vaccination campaigns, latrine construction, family and com-

munity gardens, and nutrition extension. Infant mortality has decreased as much as 30 percent in several areas.

Cooperatives in Senegal.—One volunteer assisted a village women's cooperative in obtaining a millet grinder, funded partly by the women's profits from vegetable sales and partly by AID. The machine will have a direct effect on 500-600 women in 6 surrounding villages. It will employ 2 villagers to keep records and create income for the village.

THE PEACE CORPS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

In addition to sending thousands of volunteers to developing countries every year, the Peace Corps has developed a partnership program to assist people in developing countries identify self-help projects against hunger, disease and illiteracy. These projects are initiated, planned and directed by the people of the local community.

The Peace Corps Partnership Program works by linking U.S. groups with community groups in developing countries. Support from U.S. schools, individuals, foundations and businesses is shared with community groups for projects such as building wells, renovating bridges, and improving cooperative business ventures.

In Partnership projects, the community provides at least 25 percent of the total project cost, and all land, labor, and raw materials. They also choose the technologies and strategies considered most appropriate in their own settings. A Peace Corps volunteer who lives and works in the community helps plan the project and write the proposal. The volunteer also acts to coordinate the disbursement of project funds and facilitate information exchange between the U.S. and overseas partners.

An important possible additional benefit of this collaboration is the community's demonstration of its organizational capability, thus making it eligible for other forms of assistance, whether from their own government or other in-country assistance agencies.

One example of a successful project includes a food production project in Mali in which \$700 was contributed to improve an irrigation system and to construct hot houses for a nursery. Another project in Costa Rica provided resources for the formation of women's cooperatives to sell handicrafts, organize a bakery, and produce laundry soap.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF THE PEACE CORPS

Evaluation

In this twenty-fifth year, the Peace Corps is evaluating not only its successes of the past, but also its challenges for the future. Although over 100,000 Volunteers have served in 92 developing countries, systematic evaluation of their periods of service are virtually non-existent. Most of the information available is anecdotal. It would appear impossible to quantify the efforts or successes of all Peace Corps assignments. Nevertheless, improvements in the evaluation system of the Peace Corps could lead to better information for the active and returning volunteers themselves, and also for future programming of volunteers.

Geographic distribution

Some are concerned about the under-representation and uneven distribution of Peace Corps volunteers in developing countries around the world. There are fewer than 200 Peace Corps volunteers serving in South American countries, and fewer than 300 on the Asian mainland. The Peace Corps has withdrawn from some of the largest developing countries, many of which have severe problems of malnutrition and low food production. Volunteers no longer serve in such desperately poor countries as Bolivia, Peru, Pakistan, and Ethiopia. They are no longer able to share expertise with the poor majorities of India, Indonesia, Brazil, or Colombia, all countries with millions of poor and hungry people. Following is a list of countries in which the Peace Corps has served in its 25 year history, and of the numerical distribution of volunteers and trainees by geographic regions.

CHART 2.—COUNTRIES OF PEACE CORPS SERVICE, 1961-86

Regions and countries	Entered	Departed	Entered	Departed	Entered
Inter-America Region:					
Anguilla	1967				
Antigua/Barbuda	1967				
Barbados	1965				
Belize	1962				
Bolivia	1962	1971			
Brazil	1962	1981			
Chile	1961	1982			
Colombia	1961	1981			
Costa Rica	1963				
Dominica	1967				
Dominican Republic	1962				
Ecuador	1962				
El Salvador	1962	1980			
Grenada	1963	1982	1984		
Guatemala	1963				
Guyana	1967	1971			
Haiti	1983				
Honduras	1963				
Jamaica	1962				
Montserrat	1967				
Nicaragua	1968	1979			
Panama	1963	1971			
Paraguay	1967				
Peru	1962	1975			
St. Christopher/Nevis	1976				
St. Lucia	1961				
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	1967				
Turks and Caicos Islands	1980				
Uruguay	1963	1974			
Venezuela	1962	1977			
North Africa, Near East, Asia, and Pacific Region:					
Afghanistan	1962	1979			
Bahrain	1974	1979			
Cook Islands	1982				
Cyprus	1962	1964			
Fiji	1968				
India	1962	1976			
Indonesia	1963	1965			
Iran	1962	1976			
Kiribati	1973				
Libya	1966	1969			

CHART 2.—COUNTRIES OF PEACE CORPS SERVICE, 1961-86—Continued

Regions and countries	Entered	Departed	Entered	Departed	Entered
Malaysia.....	1962	1983			
Malta.....	1970	1977			
Micronesia.....	1966				
Morocco.....	1963				
Nepal.....	1962				
Oman.....	1973	1983			
Pakistan.....	1961	1967			
Papua New Guinea.....	1981				
Philippines.....	1961				
Seychelles.....	1974				
Solomon Islands.....	1971				
Somali Republic.....	1962	1970			
South Korea.....	1966	1981			
Sri Lanka.....	1962	1964	1967	1970	1983
Sudan.....	1984				
Thailand.....	1962				
Tonga.....	1967				
Tunisia.....	1962				
Turkey.....	1962	1970			
Tuvalu.....	1974				
Western Samoa.....	1967				
Yemen Arab Republic.....	1973				
Africa Region:					
Benin.....	1968				
Botswana.....	1966				
Burkina Faso.....	1967				
Burundi.....	1983				
Cameroon.....	1962				
Central African Republic.....	1972				
Chad.....	1966	1979			
Ethiopia.....	1962	1977			
Gabon.....	1963	1968	1973		
The Gambia.....	1967				
Ghana.....	1961				
Guinea.....	1963	1966	1969	1971	1985
Ivory Coast.....	1962	1981			
Kenya.....	1965				
Lesotho.....	1967				
Liberia.....	1962				
Malawi.....	1963	1972	1979		
Mali.....	1971				
Mauritania.....	1967	1967	1971		
Mauritius.....	1971	1975			
Niger.....	1962				
Nigeria.....	1967	1971			
Rwanda.....	1975				
Senegal.....	1963				
Sierra Leone.....	1962				
Swaziland.....	1969				
Tanzania.....	1961	1970	1979		
Togo.....	1962				
Uganda.....	1964	1973			
Zaire.....	1970				

CHART 3.—DISTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTEERS AND TRAINEES BY GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

(June 1961 to September 1985)

	Africa	East Asia Pacific	Latin America	North America Near East South Asia	Total
June 30, 1961.....	44		80		124
June 30, 1962.....	779	819	823	359	2,816
June 30, 1963.....	2,230	1,372	2,194	850	6,646
June 30, 1964.....	3,522	1,070	3,986	1,500	10,078
June 30, 1965.....	4,146	1,632	4,904	2,566	13,248
June 30, 1966.....	4,640	2,360	5,452	3,158	15,556
June 30, 1967.....	4,110	2,499	5,038	3,321	14,968
June 30, 1968.....	3,738	3,142	4,486	2,457	13,823
June 30, 1969.....	3,386	2,290	3,362	2,193	12,131
June 30, 1970.....	2,775	2,027	3,096	1,615	9,513
June 30, 1971.....	2,722		2,401	1,943	7,066
June 30, 1972.....	2,238		1,819	2,837	6,894
June 30, 1973.....	2,483		2,199	2,672	7,341
June 30, 1974.....	2,659		2,613	2,772	8,044
June 30, 1975.....	2,509		1,997	2,509	7,015
June 30, 1976.....	2,181		1,717	2,060	5,958
June 30, 1977.....	2,055		1,838	1,859	5,752
Sept. 30, 1978 ¹	2,460		2,170	2,442	7,072
Sept. 30, 1979.....	2,401		1,904	2,023	6,328
Sept. 30, 1980.....	2,464		1,728	1,802	5,994
Sept. 30, 1981.....	2,399		1,484	1,562	5,445
Sept. 30, 1982.....	2,298		1,419	1,563	5,380
Sept. 30, 1983.....	2,470		1,524	1,489	5,483
Sept. 30, 1984.....	2,462		1,621	1,616	5,699
Sept. 30, 1985.....	2,709		1,892	1,663	6,264

¹ Change in end of fiscal year.

North Africa/Near East/South Asia were merged with east Asia and Pacific in November 1971 (NANEAP).

Source: Office of Marketing, Recruitment, Placement, and Staging, Peace Corps.

There are many reasons for Peace Corps withdrawal from countries. Civil war and revolution forced the removal of U.S. citizens in some, such as El Salvador. In others, Peace Corps budget limitations resulted in early termination of programs, such as in Colombia. Some of the more strongly nationalistic developing countries viewed the Peace Corps as a symbol of imperialism, and the Peace Corps was asked to leave. Unfortunately, those who suffer in each case are the poor and the malnourished who otherwise would have been served.

Some groups, notably the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Washington and the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, support the goal of re-establishing communication between the Peace Corps and many of those countries once served by volunteers. Obviously the Peace Corps cannot and should not intrude itself into countries which do not desire and request its presence. Nevertheless, the possibility of enhancing programs for under-served areas could be explored.

Expanded programming

Authorization levels for the Peace Corps increased from \$117 million in FY 84 to \$130 million in FY 86. However, in FY 87, expected reductions from the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget mechanism could reduce the funding available for expanded programming. The Peace Corps has requested funding of \$126.2 million for

FY 87, which would support approximately the same number of volunteers as current levels. In order to expand programs into under-served areas, additional funding for the Peace Corps would be required.

Depoliticizing country directorships

Another concern is that positions for Peace Corps country directors have been filled on the basis of political considerations. The result has been, some argue, that country programs have been too often run by inexperienced and unqualified persons. Because country directors can be crucial to the success of Peace Corps programs, it has been frequently suggested that appointments should be depoliticized, and capability in foreign languages, first hand experience with development programs, managerial skills, and familiarity with the conditions of the Peace Corps situations be the determining factors in director appointments.

Legislative response

Many Members for some time have advocated increasing the Peace Corps from its current level of about 5,000 volunteers to 10,000 volunteers by 1988.

The call for 10,000 Volunteers was incorporated into the 1986 foreign aid bill with an amendment supported by Senator Alan Cranston. It was subsequently approved by Congress and signed into law. The language states: "The Congress declares that it is the policy of the United States and a purpose of the Peace Corps to maintain, to the maximum extent appropriate and consistent with programmatic and fiscal considerations, a volunteer corps of at least 10,000 individuals."

In addition, language was approved to depoliticize directorship appointments. It is hoped that these significant changes will lead to greatly improved effectiveness of the Peace Corps overseas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Select Committee on Hunger supports the goals and objectives of the Peace Corps, particularly for the ambitious and often successful programs designed to combat world hunger. The Committee particularly supports the following points:

Increasing the number of volunteers, particularly in underserved areas.—The Committee recognizes that the Peace Corps can play a valuable role in assisting persons and communities in less developed countries to improve living standards, meet basic needs, and achieve self-reliance. The Committee encourages the Peace Corps to actively seek to serve in countries suffering from high levels of malnutrition and inadequate levels of food production. While aware that political and budgetary considerations must be taken into account, the Committee encourages expanded representation in particular geographic areas such as South America and Asia.

Expanding the Africa Food Systems Initiative.—The Committee strongly endorses the goals of this Peace Corps initiative. It is unfortunate that the pilot program was reduced from four countries, as was originally planned, to three. The Committee supports the

continued focus on African food production, and looks forward to successful implementation of project objectives.

Strengthening the focus on women in Peace Corps programs.—In an overwhelming number of the communities and countries served by Peace Corps volunteers, women play the central role in meeting the family's basic needs. In many African countries, women do 70-80 percent of the agricultural work and produce 40-50 percent of the staple food crops. It is almost universally true that women are responsible for food preparation, child care, and related household duties. Yet the preponderance of development assistance efforts have historically been designed for men.

The Peace Corps' programming emphasis on women is greatly needed and should be vigorously supported. Women need low-cost technologies, access to credit and training, and greatly expanded educational and health care services. The Peace Corps' vital role in providing these opportunities deserves high visibility and continued support.

CONCLUSION

Twenty-five years ago, the Peace Corps was established to "promote world peace and friendship." It has sought to do so by sending U.S. citizens to less-developed countries interested in assistance to meet educational, health, agricultural, and other development needs. The Peace Corps has consistently emphasized the human dimension of development, concentrating on people-to-people approaches rather than transferring complex technologies or providing costly materials. As many development specialists now believe this to be one of the most effective approaches for meeting basic human needs, the Peace Corps has proven a valuable addition to other, more traditional agencies and programs. Peace Corps cooperative working arrangements with the Agency for International Development, the World Health Organization and others underscores this fact.

In its 1980 *World Development Report*, the World Bank has estimated that 800 million people live in conditions of absolute poverty, that is, in "conditions of such poor nutrition, illiteracy, high disease rates, high infant mortality, and low life expectancy as to be beneath any rational definition of human decency." The Peace Corps focuses its efforts on alleviating those conditions, and on providing the tools so that people can work their own way out of poverty. While improvements are possible, it is well recognized that the Peace Corps has the potential for playing a unique and significant role in the huge task of eliminating hunger and fostering global security.

